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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/890,265	08/08/2001	Aleksei Petrovich Kirpichnikov	P67039US0	9442

136 7590 01/06/2003

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EXAMINER

NOLAND, THOMAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2856

DATE MAILED: 01/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

C9849265


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EXAMINER

ART UNIT

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DATE MAILED:

 This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined    ☐ Responsive to communication filed on \_\_\_\_\_    ☐ This action is made final.

 A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), \_\_\_\_\_ days from the date of this letter.  
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133
**Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449.      | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152.       |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474.     | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____   |

**Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION**
 1. ☒ Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

Of the above, claims \_\_\_\_\_ are withdrawn from consideration.

 2. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ have been cancelled.

 3. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are allowed.

 4. ☒ Claims 1-30 are rejected.

 5. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are objected to.

 6. ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

 7. ☐ This application has been filed with Informal drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.85 which are acceptable for examination purposes.

 8. ☐ Formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.

 9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on \_\_\_\_\_. Under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 these drawings are ☐ acceptable; ☐ not acceptable (see explanation or Notice of Draftsman's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948).

 10. ☐ The proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on \_\_\_\_\_, has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner; ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).

 11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed \_\_\_\_\_, has been ☐ approved; ☐ disapproved (see explanation).

 12. ☒ Acknowledgement is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☒ been received ☐ not been received ☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. \_\_\_\_\_; filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

 13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

 14. ☐ Other

EXAMINER'S ACTION

Art Unit: 2856

1. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).
2. The preliminary amendment filed August 8, 2001 has been entered.
3. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.
4. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.
5. The drawings are objected to because in Fig. 1 "box" elements 2, 5, 6 and 7 should be identified with appropriate legends. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
6. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.
7. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:  
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
8. Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Art Unit: 2856

The claims are replete with the limitation "and/or" which as used herein leads to lack of required specificity. Also the parenthetical limitations in line 4 and 5 of claim 1 and in claim 17, line 2 should not be used. It is unclear what is meant by "appropriate" in claim 1, line 6.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited references show scanning probes but neither they nor any of the art of record show or would have made obvious a method of information collection and processing of samples surface using points of control of force curve data in combination with other steps set forth in claim 1, as it is best understood.

10. Claims 1-30 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

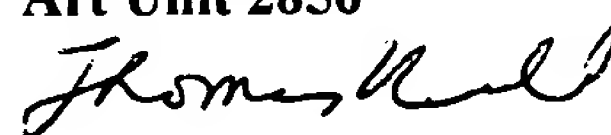
11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Noland whose telephone number is (703) 305-4765. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Hezron E. Williams, can be reached on (703) 305-4705.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

11/3/02  
Thomas P. Noland  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2856



Noland/mm  
Dec. 20, 2002